

## AFTER POPPER & STERNBACH

### STOCK EXCHANGE TO INQUIRE INTO KEENE'S BROKERS.

With All Wall Street Reforming itself the curb declines to trade in the United States checked off the big exchange—consolidated cleans up too.

The business of reforming practices on the local stock exchanges proceeded apace yesterday. The Stock Exchange governors ordered an investigation of the relation between Mr. Keene's brokers, Popper & Sternbach, and the Hocking pool. The Consolidated Exchange went further in the way of curbing specialists than the Stock Exchange did on Wednesday. Also the reform turned. The curb market, whose wriggling the Stock Exchange appointed a committee to investigate a year ago, refused to feed on itself sent down to it from the big board.

The investigation of Popper & Sternbach was decided upon when there came out in court testimony relating to some of the things that firm did when it had Mr. Keene's account in Hocking. The governors simply waited before ordering a formal investigation to find out just how many surprising revelations would be produced in the course of the court proceedings. On Wednesday when the reform rules were enacted it was proposed to wait until the court proceedings were over before beginning the formal investigation. But since then members of the exchange have protested so vehemently that the governors were prompted to take prompt action.

There are four members of the firm, Edward Popper, Sidney M. Sternbach, Arthur Z. Popper and Joseph Loewi. In Stock Exchange representation the firm is exceptionally strong, for all of the partners with the exception of Mr. Loewi are floor members. The senior partner, Edward Popper, has been a member since 1879, and the business of the firm, though conducted unostentatiously, has been much larger than that of the average house.

The gist of the charges against the firm came out in the court proceedings in the Hocking case this week. The sale of 6000 shares of Hocking for account of the firm, though entered in the name of Keene, the subsequent erasure of the Keene name, the keeping of a loose leaf ledger which was altered and the destruction of sheets from which entries into the ledger were made. Moreover, there is a charge as serious as can be made against a member of the Stock Exchange, a charge more serious than the capital offense of splitting commissions. This is that one or more members of the firm when the Hocking pool was investigated by the governors made statements which do not comport with some of the statements made on the witness stand.

In case the investigation warrants the governors in inflicting charges the firm will have under the rules two weeks to submit its defense. By that time, it is expected, the hearings in court will have been concluded and all the testimony placed before the governors.

While the Stock Exchange authorities were busy with the leftover ends of the Hocking scandal the organization which runs the curb market was mightily upset by the action of the stock exchange in dumping out on the street stocks kicked off the big board. The stocks were those of the unlisted department of the Stock Exchange. Thursday was the last day of the unlisted department, which was abolished in accordance with the recommendations of the Hughes commission. Four outcast stocks had to seek a home elsewhere.

The four were International Power, Metropolitan Street Railway and the common and preferred shares of the Federal Sugar Company. The people interested in Federal Sugar made no effort to do business in its stocks on the curb, but some speculators, traders or investors tried to start International Power and Metropolitan. The curb rebelled.

"We've got memories out here in the curb air," said one of the prominent curb brokers, "and we remember when Power sold at 139 one day and 129 the next, when it dropped 176 points in less than a month, when Joe Headley, Julius, Joe 'Lester' and the Thomases, O. F. and E. H. got wrangling about it and all the publicity that the stock had then and has had since."

"Also we're informed about Metropolitan. We know it sold at 182 a few days ago and that it's selling at about 100 today and may be cheap at half the price. We know a lot of things that have happened in Metropolitan. The air out here on the curb may not be exactly pure, but we don't want it tainted any more." Another broker called attention to the circumstance that International Power was closely related to New York Transcontinental, which Joe Alida and some others follow in the House of Commons. On account of all this E. S. Mendels, the leader of the curb organization, promulgated new rules before the close of the market. One of them forbade trading in any and all stocks that may be dropped from the unlisted department of the New York Stock Exchange. These new rules, the curb continued, cannot be applied to the regular curb lists unless they are complied with the rules and regulations of the New York curb market.

Mr. Mendels and his associates later issued a circular order in which they specified that in addition to the other requirements of the new rules there will be no regular meetings for directors with their associates and no individual reference for financial condition. Also there was demanded a sworn statement of financial condition. International Power is an industrial stock. If Mr. Headley and his disciples who the stock deal in on the curb must supply affidavits and

the governors of the Consolidated Stock Exchange voted yesterday to amend Article II, section 1, of the by-laws of the

## WOMAN STOLE MANY AUTOS

### HER CLEVER SWINDLE HAS NETTED HER \$30,000.

She Has Played the Same Game in Many Cities. Assisted by a Young Man Said to Be Her Husband—She Has Stolen Two Automobiles Here in a Month.

The pretty young woman with dark eyes and a winning smile who bunced Frank J. Homan of the Homan & Schultz garage, at 217 West Fifty-ninth street, out of a \$2,000 Peerless automobile Thursday afternoon has been identified by the detective bureau here as the cleverest and most successful automobile thief in the country.

She has originated a new flimflam, working it so successfully with the young man who is her confederate and who is said to be her husband that in a few months she has stolen \$30,000 worth of machines from San Francisco to New York. She has tricked automobile dealers in San Francisco, Denver, Chicago and New York, and the detectives have never been able to get near her.

Lieut. Jim Dunn of the Central Office said yesterday that Mrs. M. Morton, or Mrs. N. J. Spalding, or Mrs. Ortega—these are only a few of her professional names—was the engaging young person who bamboozled John J. Burgess, a friend of Percy Nagle, the Tammany leader.

She added that they worked six hours a day as waitresses in a restaurant. Jones couldn't see the situation in that light. He had contracted to get those sandwiches over to Teachers College and he also had to feed a young army of hungry students at dinner time. For a minute he sat dumfounded and then he ordered the waitresses back to work and followed them out to the kitchen where the bread was waiting for the sandwiches. The waitresses refused to touch a slice of bread. Jones fired the girls and led a procession back to his office, where he handed each one her check. Then he sent a call for help to an employment agency, peeled off his coat and started in on the sandwiches. He had them all ready as time.

### CENTRAL INCREASES WAGES.

Conductors and Yard Brakemen to Get Three Cents an Hour More.

The New York Central announced yesterday that it had made the following increase of pay to employees, effective yesterday, April 1:

The pay of yard conductors and yard brakemen in all yards is increased three cents an hour. The wages of all other employees receiving a monthly salary of \$200 or less are increased 7 percent, with the following exceptions:

Exception A—Employees of the engineering and maintenance of way department, as their salaries have already been adjusted.

Exception B—Conductors and trainmen and employees included in the telegraphers' schedule, the wages of these employees now being under consideration.

At the same time the Boston and Albany made corresponding increases in wages, in accordance with the following schedule: The wages of all employees receiving a monthly salary of \$200 a month or less are increased 7 percent, with the following exceptions:

Exception A—Yard conductors and yard brakemen, whose pay is increased three cents an hour.

Exception B—Employees of the engineering and maintenance of way department, whose salaries will be adjusted on a varying scale according to location and the character of work performed.

### MRS. BOOTH WANTS CATS BELLED.

Appeals to Their Owners to Do This to Save the Birds.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., April 1. Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth, head of the American Volunteers, whose home is in this town, has made an appeal to the bird lovers to bell their cats. She says she has observed with grief how many cats will pounce into gardens and lie in wait under the bushes for the thrushes, robins and other birds.

"It has occurred to me," says Mrs. Booth, "that it would be a very wise and kind precaution if those who possess a cat would put around the cat's neck a tiny bell, especially during the nesting season. For a couple of cents a little bell can be purchased, and if tied with a pretty ribbon around the cat's neck, it will be an annoyance to her owner, and yet when she prowls among the bushes of the gardens she would warn the birds of her approach."

### KRACKER SEES THE PRESIDENT.

Was a Guest at Luncheon and Talked Over the Surveys of This Port.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—President Taft has only a little more than two weeks remaining before Gen. James S. Clarkson, Surveyor of the Port of New York, retires, but he has not yet determined upon Mr. Clarkson's successor. The President talked over the surveyship to-day with F. J. H. Kracker, Naval Officer of the Port of New York. Mr. Kracker was a guest at the White House at luncheon on April 1. Mr. Kracker, who is a member of the campaign in Ohio in 1910, and W. A. Phipps, another Ohioan, who is interested in the coming political struggle in that State.

Mr. Kracker declined to discuss his talk with the President, it is understood that Mr. Taft is still hunting for the right man. The man the President is looking for, it was said, must not be a politician, but still must be acceptable to the New York Republican organization.

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Mr. Browne, who appeared voluntarily as a witness to explain certain transactions involving the company in which the names of Buckley and Justice E. K. McCall have figured, said in reference to the appearance of the names of Senator Goodsell and Buckley in the stock certificate book that both had paid for their stock at the subscription price—\$15 a share—through loans negotiated with the defunct Seventh National Bank with the stock as collateral.

In Senator Goodsell's case it appeared that the bank had loaned up to the subscription value of the stock, that the amount of the loan had simply been credited to Mr. Browne's account and that Senator Goodsell had simply paid interest on the loan, waiting for the stock to rise. It dropped within three months to 125, but Browne succeeded in getting the Seventh National to carry the Senator's loan without exacting more margin. Whether the Senator kept his stock until it went up a year or so later on the merger of the company with the Trust Company of North America didn't come out yesterday.

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In a statement issued last evening Mr. Hotchkiss said that the books in his possession when read in connection with Judge McCall's checks confirmed the facts set forth by Judge McCall and explained previously inexplicable entries in the books and correspondence files of the Phenix. He said that it was to be regretted that the facts had not been made clear at the time of Buckley's examination.

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## PITTSBURG'S MAYOR HISSSED

### MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS BEGS HIM TO RESIGN.

Men of Standing in Community Denounce Craft and Crafters—Andrew Carnegie Voices His Sorrow That City's Fair Name Should Be Smirched.

PITTSBURGH, April 1.—Mayor William A. Magee tried to sneer at 3,000 Pittsburgh taxpayers who had gathered in Exposition Hall to-night to protest against the vice in Pittsburgh and was hissed and hooted from the hall.

Mayor Magee thundered that if half said about him and his administration were true he would resign and the rafters fairly shook with the roar of "Please resign!" "You're afraid to!" &c.

The crowd, which included many of the best men in Pittsburgh, stood and hissed the Mayor until he got clear out of the building on the arm of John Moran, his director of public safety, who left the saloon business to take up the city's safety.

Julian Kennedy, the world famed consulting engineer; Prof. John A. Brashear, the astronomer, and others of equal fame had the meeting in charge.

Mayor Magee went to the meeting unmasked and took a seat on the stage. No attention was paid to him until charges had been made against the administration and he jumped to his feet and asked Chairman Brashear the privilege of replying. This was granted.

"You people know a whole lot about law, don't you?" began Magee. Then the crowd simply went wild, stood on chairs and hissed Magee for ten minutes before he would sit down.

"I had what has been said about me and my administration is true. I'll resign my commission!" shouted the Mayor as soon as he could be heard. A roar of catcalls and hisses greeted this, while hundreds of the best men of Pittsburgh shook their fists at the Mayor and dared him to resign. One man whose name was not learned shouted to the Mayor that he would give him \$1,000 to resign at once.

"In glaring letters I have had to read 'Pittsburgh's shame,' 'Pittsburgh's graft,' 'delightful headlines to one who loves Pittsburgh and owes to her all that he has,'" said Andrew Carnegie in a formal interview here to-day.

"I have been humiliated and I am this morning sore at heart, yet I am comforted by the fact that a great mass meeting is to be held to-night to show that the heart of Pittsburgh, the mass of the people, stands firm against all that is wrong."

"If I had not to be the guest of the Carnegie Veterans to-night I think I should have attended that meeting and at the proper time asked the chairman to allow me to address the meeting."

"The question now is whether Pittsburgh will come through this trial gloriously or disgracefully, and I have indulged the hope that she will stand the test and will go through the fire unscathed, that her sons wherever they may travel will be able to hold up their heads and extol this city, to which they are indebted for the happy days of youth and the pleasures of old age."

"The exposure of the graft is a splendid sign, much better than if it had been concealed by Pittsburgh."

"Let her put her foot upon graft. Let those accused pass into oblivion, and let her in the future discard politics in municipal affairs."

### PAID ALL ABOUT ETNA.

Peasantry Kept in the Open to Pray While Lava Flows Faster—Explosion Feared.

CATANIA, April 1.—The rain of lapilli and ashes from Mount Etna is unchecked. Water also is falling. The inhabitants insist upon remaining in the open, surrounding images of the Madonna and saints, drenched to the skin, praying and watching the advance of the lava streams, which are becoming more fluid and more indestructible.

The speed of the streams is also increasing, and they are threatening to invade the large cistern outside Borello, and a great explosion is feared when the lava comes in contact with the water. The authorities are trying to block the cistern with stones, hoping to avert a disaster.

Statues of the Immaculate Conception, St. Lucy and St. Anthony have been placed in front of three of the advancing streams, but they have to be constantly moved in order to save them from the advancing lava. The inhabitants, losing faith in the power of the saints, but the priests are exhorting them to trust in Providence.

### FATAL APRIL FOOLING.

High School Boy Hanged Himself Trying to Play a Joke on His Brother.

ARLINGTON, N. J., April 1.—A number of April fool stunts which Harry Edwards and his younger brother, Fred, played last evening in the attic of their home at 700 Madison avenue resulted in the death of Harry.

Harry was 19 years old and Fred is 14. The two brothers had a fine time all day cooking and setting off fireworks in the family. They were going to an April fool party last night, but before they left they went up to the attic of the house. Fred left his brother for a few minutes to go home. The boy was very quiet. When he returned he discovered Harry hanging from a rafter. He called to him but received no answer. Around Harry's neck was a thin leather strap, such as the boys used for their school books. Fred cut this and his brother dropped to the floor.

The family sent for Dr. Widmar Doremus. The doctor worked over the boy but said that he had been dead for several minutes. The only explanation the police could get from Fred was that Harry probably wanted to fool his brother and make him believe that he had hanged himself. He stood up on a couch and Harry Edwards, the father, is a salesman in New York city. The boy was a pupil in the Kearny High School.

President Taft on Horseback.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Instead of going out to the country in one of the big White House touring cars or playing a foursome over the Chevy Chase links the President to-day called for his saddle horse. With Gen. Clarence B. Edwards as a guide he rode down the Potomac Park and enjoyed the spring air. It was the first horseback ride Mr. Taft has taken in many months.

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